

# Elders and Traditionalist Corner

## The Way I See It

by Dr. Donna Chivers, President  
Native American Scholarship Fund  
Albuquerque, NM



*Wizdom  
from the Country*

by W. D. "Wiz" Locklear

Dear Miss Connee,  
Ol Wiz is just about as tired as he can be. I'm been going from one of them Public Hearings on our Lumbee Constitution to another. I'm learned alot about what it means to live in a democracy. Other than Miss Cynthia Hunt and Miss Ruth Locklear who have been at all these public hearings, the next person that's got to be the tiredest is that Ben Jacobs that works at that LRDA. Man, he can ask some of the headiest questions. What knocks Ol Wiz out is that he asks the saem questions at ever hearing. I'm glad Miss Cynthia's got more patience than Ol Wiz. Ol Wiz, to tell the truth, Miss Connee, is about sick to death of Mr. Ben asking the same questions over and over agin.

Course, Miss Connee, after about the third hearing, Ol Wiz got to studyin' about what Mr. Ben was up to. Maybe he weren't up to nothing, just don't understand democracy too good.

But maybe them LRDA boys sent Mr. Ben to tell us something without telling us, if you know what I mean, Miss Connee. You see, Mr. Ben kept right on asking about something he and Miss Cynthia kept calling "baseline documents." And they kept talking about a master list for people to be able to vote. Now, Miss Connee, Ol Wiz remembers when we had them blood committees that would sort of decide who of our people was Indian and who were exactly Indian. Now we know who we are. I know a Lum when I see him, even if he's at Myrtle Beach. (You know, Miss Connee, that's about as far as Ol Wiz travels.)

I'm been a studying Miss Connee, reckon them LRDA boys think they can stop us from voting on our constitution because they have the enrollment records. Well, Ol Wiz don't know for sure but seems to him that them LRDA boys would be holding on to records that would be exactly legal. That's really no nver mind tho, cause they sure don't use no document to prove Ol Wiz is Indian when he votes in their elections. Ol Wiz just walks in there and signs his John Hancock and votes. Course our

Daddy said you could boil a possum-spoiled rabbit box in hot water, and it would take the possum scent out of it, but I never tried that.

The purpose, of course, of having a rabbit box was to have a rabbit to eat. Boiled with some vegetables, rabbits are good eating. When I lived in Oklahoma, I used to shoot them with a .22 rifle, and charcoal broil them. They are good that way, taste like chicken. But my wife and girls didn't like the idea of me killing little innocent animals.

I used to ask them "Who do you think killed the hog for that bacon you are eating? Somebody had to kill him." Monica told me, when she was about ten, "Well, it wasn't me that had to kill him."

Rabbits are not the smartest animals in the world. Grady Chavis was hunting in the fields in front of our house one year, and killed a rabbit. He took it home, and came back to start hunting at the same place. Right across the ditch was another rabbit, and he shot and killed that one, too.

The second one hadn't learned much, I guess, from the sound of the shotgun.

the middle of the short board. The bait stick could be some green branch, cut to make a sharp point, and a notch to slide under the hole in the board.

At the other end of the short board, we would make a door out of the same piece of board. The bait stick and the door would be on opposite ends of the balance stick, with most of the weight on the door end. This door had to slide without hanging up down the slot in the open end of the box.

The idea was to have the rabbit come to the box, smell the bait, enter the box head first to get at the bait, and when he was in the box, nibbling at the bait, the bait stick would slide up the hole, letting the door fall down and trapping him inside.

So the box had to be long enough to hold a full-grown rabbit. And the hole for the bait stick had to be far enough toward the back to let the rabbit get all the way inside.

The worst thing about making a rabbit box was possums. They would get into the box for the same reason as the rabbit, but they would leave a scent on the box. As long as that scent was there, no rabbit would come back to the box. We didn't eat possums, so we usually had to throw the box away once a possum got into it.

The post would be a forked stick about 15 inches long. We would take a knife and whittle it to fit the hole in

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Page 5-Carolina Indian Voice-Thursday, April 26, 1991  
delegates is gonna do better than that hold our election, but they can rest on when we get ready to vote on our this; we're gonna vote on our constitution. I'll leave it to them LRDA constitution.  
boys to figure out how we're gonna  
I'm gonna go fishing for a day or so.  
I'm plumb tickered out.

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